

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 081637Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0958

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LI

SUBJECT: PRINCE BROWNE JUDGMENT

REF: MONROVIA 0777

1. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPREME COURT REVIEW, PRINCE BROWNE MATTER HAS AGAIN SLIPPED FROM OVERT PUBLIC NOTICE, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE MANY PEOPLE MAY BE DISCUSSING IT PRIVATELY. LIBERIAN STAR, WHICH WAS BURNED EARLIER IN AN ATTEMPT TO COVER FIRST TRIAL, SAW FIT NOT TO REPORT SUPREME COURT DECISION AT ALL. BOTH PAPERS, HOWEVER, NOTED NEXT DAY THAT WIVES OF THREE MEN, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. GARNETT, WIFE OF COMMANDER, LBIERIAN COAST GUARD, PAID CALL ON TOTBERT TO ASK FOR CLEMENCY. PRESIDENT NOTED THEIR PENITENCE AND SAID HE HOPED THREE MEN WERE QTE AS PENITENT UNQTE; THEN WENT ON TO SAY HE DID NOT LIKE TO SIGN DEATH PENALTIES BUT HE HAD TO ENFORCE LAWS.

2. EMBASSY CONTINUES FEEL HE MAY OPT FOR COMMUTATION OF DEATH PENALTY. DISSENT OF ASSOCIATE JUSTICE HORACE (REFTEL) MAY BE KEY FOR HIS ACTION. HORACE, WHILE UPHOLDING GUILT OF THREE, NOES NO QTE OVERT ACT UNQTE WAS COMMITTED AND ARGUES SENTENCE SHOULD BE REDUCED TO SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. ALLOTEY, COUNSELLOR GHANA EMBASSY, STATES TOLBERT TOLD GHANA AMBASSADOR HE HAD NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND HOW TO HANDLE CASE. ALLOTEY AND
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AMBASSADOR QUAYE BOTH FEEL TOLBERT WILL COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCE

TO PRISON TERM.
MANFULL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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